

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

N-[N-[3-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)propyl]-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester is prepared by a process comprising:

subjecting Aspartame and 3-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionaldehyde or  
5 derivatives thereof to reductive alkylation in a solvent to produce N-[N-[3-(3-methoxy-4-hydroxyphenyl)propyl]-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1-methyl ester; and  
crystallizing said compound.